

WASHINGTON LETTER

Washington, Nov. 20.—The great Democratic victory of Tuesday, accurately forecasted by Chairman Cordell Hull of the Democratic National Committee, marks the beginning of the return of the people to the Democratic party and the restoration of that party to complete power in 1924. It is more than a protest against Republican incompetence and failure. It is a repudiation of the major policies which the present reactionary Republican Congress and administration—the most reactionary in history—have advocated and foisted upon the people. It is a repudiation of tariff-robbing, of tax-shifting and tax-juggling, of Newberryism, Daughertyism and Laskerism, of reckless appropriation and extravagant expenditure, of the alliance between the reactionary leaders of the Republican party and special privilege and of the re-enthronement of the spoil system in government departments.

In many of its features the election was a personal rebuke to President Harding himself. The Republican candidate for Governor of Ohio, who is supposed to have won his nomination by reason of being an administration favorite, was defeated; Senator Frelinghuysen of New Jersey, the President's fellow-vocationist and boon companion, was emphatically and decisively squelched; Newberry, who obtained a certificate of character from President Harding prior to the trial of the Newberry case by the Senate, was repudiated wherever there were Democratic majorities; Lodge, the administration's spokesman in the Senate, has been humiliated to a degree which in some respects is worse than his defeat would have been, and a recount of the votes in Massachusetts may add to his humiliation. There were minor casualties in the presidential corte.

President Harding had definitely committed himself to the Republican policies and candidates that were on trial. He spoke for them by the lips of his Cabinet officers. He gave every sign that he regarded the result as either approval or disapproval of the Republican administration's acts and omissions. The supreme court of the electorate has given its decision. Mr. Harding and the Republican Congress stand condemned for the future no less than for the past.

One thing lacking in Tuesday's election was the failure to give the Democrats a substantial majority in the House. A small Republican minority in the House, however, is equivalent to a Democratic victory. The balance of power will be held by progressives and radicals who are as much opposed to Republican reactionism as the Democrats.

Republican reactionism has been checked but not destroyed. The work so auspiciously began last Tuesday will be completed in 1924.

The Weekly Press a Great Factor in the Democratic Victory

A statement issued by the Democratic National Committee contains this tribute to the weekly press:

"In assessing credit for the great Democratic victory of Tuesday, November 7, it is but justice to say that there was no more important factor than the Democratic and Independent weekly press, at the same time making due acknowledgment of the splendid public and political service rendered by the daily press, Democratic, Independent and many leading Republican papers which were in revolt against the Profiters' Tariff and Newberryism.

"Since the Republican administration came into power, the Democratic and Independent weekly press have given to their readers the main facts concerning Congress and the administration, so interpreted that the readers obtained a meaning of the news as well as the news itself. In the most remote sections of the country the readers of the weekly papers have been kept constantly informed of the issues in the campaign. That these issues were understood and intelligently acted upon is shown by the vote in rural sections of the country.

"In addition to giving their readers the high-lights of the national news, the weekly press have editorially discussed the issues of the campaign in a most convincing and effective manner. They have rendered not only a service to the Democratic party, but to the public.

"It may well be doubted if any other form of publication is so thoroughly read and so well digested as the weekly newspaper, and certainly no other publications have more sincerely at heart the welfare of their respective communities. As a rule, their characteristics are a rugged honesty, high courage, clear and plain-speaking, and with few exceptions, they accurately and fairly reflect public sentiment within the radius of their circulation. The future of America will always be secure as long as the country press remains true to its record and its traditions."

Republican Tariff Senators Repudiated
Repudiation and relegation of Republican Senators who were conspicuous supporters of the Fordney-McCumber profiteers' tariff law is one of the outstanding results of last Tuesday's election. Seven of its principal advocates in the Senate were defeated in this election, and two—Senator McCumber of North Dakota, its co-author, and Senator New, of Indiana—had already been overthrown by voters of their party in the primaries last summer, while the inequities of the bill were under public discussion.

Senator Calder, of New York, who became notorious as the special agent of the Glove Interests in the concoction of the profiteers' tariff, admits that his defeat was due in part to his work and vote in behalf of the measure. Whether the other Republican Senators who have been replaced by Democrats will make the same admission is not of consequence. It is plain to every one else that the Republican profiteers' tariff and the Senators who imposed it on the people were on trial and were condemned.

It is well to remember the names of these Republican Senators who were crushed by the tariff Frankenstein. They are: Senators Calder of New York, Du Pont of Delaware,

France of Maryland, Frelinghuysen of New Jersey, Kellogg of Minnesota, Sutherland of West Virginia, and Townsend of Michigan. Senator McCumber and Senator New are also casualties chargeable to the profiteers' bill.

In order to punish some of these Senators for their part in inflicting this outrageous tariff on the country, the people of several states regarded as invincibly Republican forgot their traditions and their partisanship and elected Democrats or others to succeed these Republican aids to Special Privilege. Minnesota and Michigan, West Virginia and North Dakota, are some of these.

Michigan Voters Remove Stain of Newberryism from State

Michigan's condemnation of Newberryism gives impetus to the demand for a reopening of the case against Truman H. Newberry, and for his removal from the U. S. Senate. Senator Townsend, Republican, who championed Newberry and sought to defend his support of his colleague, has been eliminated from public life, and former Gov. Ferris, a Democrat, who made the issue of Newberryism paramount in the Michigan campaign has been elected in his stead.

Michigan has set an example which, it is believed, the United States Senate will be bound to emulate. The state which suffered from the disgrace of Newberryism has done what it could to cleanse its name and restore its fame. The United States Senate has not yet wiped out the blot which its vote to seat Newberry left on its record. The Senate can now hardly refuse to do for its own reputation what Michigan has done for its good name.

Republican Revolt Expected on Ship Subsidy Bill

In the face of the country's verdict against the Republican Congress and the Republican administration, returned by the voters last Tuesday, President Harding has made good his promise to urge the passage of the ship bonus bill, which contemplates the sale of the Government's merchant marine for \$2,800,000,000 less than its cost and the bestowal of \$750,000,000 in subsidies on its purchasers. A special session of Congress is to be called for November 20, it is officially announced, that the ship bonus bill may be rushed to enactment, if possible, before March 4, 1923.

The evil principle upon which the Republican profiteers' tariff law is predicated is the foundation of the ship bonus bill. The latter, like the former, has for its purpose—and in minds of its advocates has for its justification also—the granting of public funds to private interests under the color of conferring a public benefit.

It is believed that many Republican Senators who are to confront the voters in 1924 and Republican Representatives who narrowly escaped with their political lives last Tuesday will not be obedient followers of President Harding in passing the ship bonus bill as they were in enacting the profiteers' tariff bill. If the President hasn't learned anything from the elections it is felt that most of the Republican Congressmen have derived a salutary lesson from it and are not likely to forget it within the short space of thirteen days.

President Harding will find the marshaling of enough votes to pass his pet measure in the special session or the regular session beginning next month a difficult task, it is predicted. It is expected that instead of a quick disposal of the bill the President may be met in the Senate by a demand for an investigation of the auspices under which the ship bonus scheme was conceived.

High Prices and Republican Panic Continue

Americans are just now receiving a painful demonstration of the fallacy of the Republican claim that high prices—an increase in the cost of living—shall always be accepted as the efficient cause of prosperity. The whole philosophy of a Republican tariff is that the people can put money into their pockets by taxing themselves; that the larger the prices they have to pay for what they consume the more sure they are to have the wherewithal to pay.

The cost of living is at a higher level than it was a year ago. All the prices the consumer must pay are higher by some 8 or 10 per cent. Prosperity should be almost at the zenith, if it grows with the rise in prices in accordance with the Republican formula. The public is well aware, however, that the wage-workers, the farmers, the small business man, the great mass of Americans whose only income is their salaries, are no more prosperous today than on the same day and date in 1921.

Bankruptcies and commercial failures are as numerous as they have been at any time since the Republicans took charge of the Government. The prices of agricultural products received by the producers are the only prices that have not soared under the stimulus of the Republican prescription. Even these products, when they have left the farmers' hands and are sold to the consumer as manufactured commodities, are dearer than they were a year ago. The Republican tariffs—two of them—have done nothing for agriculture and a good deal to its detriment, notably by increasing the cost of everything that agriculturists require.

U. S. Foreign Trade Continues to Shrink

America's exports, which in normal times include vast quantities of agricultural products, have been decreasing at the rate of \$228,400,000 a month under the Harding administration, according to the official figures of the Department of Commerce. Between June 30, 1921, and June 30, 1922, the shrinkage of this country's export trade amounted in money to \$2,745,000,000.

The aggregate foreign trade of the United States in 1921 was \$10,170,900,000, of which \$6,516,000,000 was exports and \$3,654,900,000 was imports. In 1922 the volume had fallen to \$2,608,000,000 for imports and \$3,

771,000,000 for exports, so that the nation's favorable balance of trade for the year ended last June was only a little more than \$1,000,000,000.

Operation of the Fordney-McCumber tariff law, which is prohibitive in its effects on certain imports, is expected to produce an even worse showing in 1923 than that revealed by the figures for 1922. Curtailment of imports, against which this new tariff act will militate, is believed certain to reduce the volume of exports, since the outside world's inability to sell in this country will prevent foreign buying here on the scale of the last several years.

As there is a surplus of most of the cereal crops of the United States this excess of domestic production over domestic consumption must find a market abroad. Decrease in foreign demand for these surpluses will react on prices in this country and the agricultural interests are facing a new era of depression.

Republican control of national affairs has been accompanied by a steady decline in the volume of commerce with the outside world and this has been reflected in domestic conditions. The industrial and agricultural panic of the last eighteen months has been solely a Republican calamity.

Ship Sold by Lasker for \$1,600 Burns; Estimated Damage \$25,000.

Developments following the partial destruction of a wooden ship sold by the United States Shipping Board to a private corporation for about \$1,600 have furnished striking comment on the value of the vessels of the Government fleet which the Harding administration is trying to sell for about ten per cent of its original cost.

It is announced in a news dispatch from Alexandria, Va., that the Western Marine & Salvage Company, which has been buying ships from the Shipping Board, is employing 100 men in the work of dismantling these vessels and it is to engage about 200 more.

The hull of the Atlanthus, the ship which was damaged by fire on October 24, is being pumped dry, after burning to the water's edge, and her machinery is to be salvaged. The dispatch to the Washington Post, semi-official organ of the Harding administration and advocate of the President's ship bonus bill under which all the Government fleet would be sold to private interests, says:

"It is believed that the machinery, which constitutes the most valuable part of the salvage, is practically uninjured by either the fire of the flooding which followed."

When the ship burned, the Washington Times published a dispatch from Alexandria giving the information that "according to the officials of Alexandria, it is estimated that the damage (to the Atlanthus) was \$25,000."

It is difficult to understand how a ship that was sold for \$1,600 could suffer damage of \$25,000 unless the price paid by the purchasers was very much less than the true value. But the fact remains that a big corporation finds advantage in hiring 100 men to dismantle the Atlanthus after the hull has been ruined.

Potters Get High Protection, Then Cut Wages

Workers in practically every American plant manufacturing sanitary pottery, were recently ordered on strike as a protest against the reduction of 20 per cent made in their wages by their employers, most of whom are members of an organization that urged higher rates of duty on their products in order to "protect" the industry.

Already about 5,000 employees of various pottery plants in Trenton, N. J., and adjacent towns have quit work in response to the strike order from the executives of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters. It is expected that nearly all of the 10,000 men in Trenton and its environs will go on strike. The Brotherhood has many thousands of members throughout the country.

The new Fordney-McCumber profiteers' tariff law raised the duties on this class of pottery from 33 1-3 to 60 per cent, and the prices now asked of consumers have already begun to reflect these increases. Now within a few weeks after the manufacture of sanitary pottery obtained the "protection" they demanded of the Republican Congress they have cut the wages of their employees and advanced the prices of their wares.

It is believed that many other beneficiaries of the exorbitant rates of the Fordney-McCumber act will reduce wages now that the elections have been held.

DON'T IT HURT?

Not infrequently the proponent of a vigorous Americanization program is answered with "Oh, what's the use? A few foreigners more or less, who don't understand us, won't hurt!"

There are plenty of patriotic and sentimental reasons why "a few more or less" will hurt and hurt badly. And there are as many practical reasons. Bolshevism, Red propaganda, Sovietism, radicalism of all kinds, are not spread in America by Americans, but by foreigners. Short of deporting all foreigners, which is unthinkable in peace times, there is no other plan save that of Americanization, which will keep this the America of Americans instead of a try-out station for wild communistic and anarchistic schemes.

An instance of the need of greater vigilance in Americanization work is at hand in the funny reports printed in German papers regarding the election. According to some of these, President Harding is about to resign. Governor Smith of New York is to become President, the prohibition laws were repealed, the entire Congress was turned out of office, and a new one installed.

If all German, French, Austrian, and Polish children in this country knew of their own knowledge, from proper Americanization education, the facts about this country, it is hardly possible that their parents and grandparents, in writing to Europe, could fail to give a true, rather

than a false picture of political conditions in this country. It may be argued that it doesn't make any difference if Germany is told by her newspapers a set of untruths about our domestic elections, but that is not the point. Misrepresentation and misunderstanding of one country by another, interfere with trade, cause friction, and some times war, and prevent the spread of culture and education, and thus of civilization.

Not to realize that Americanization is as important to our foreign children and their parents, as education is both to them and to American children, is to remain unconscious of one of the vital problems which is today faced by the land we love.

SENATOR REED'S ELECTION AND BIRTHDAY

On November 10th, Mrs. Jas. T. Bradshaw, of 3827 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, Mo., presented to Senator Reed at the Hotel Muehlebach a huge bouquet of wonderful garden flowers of her own raising, the occasion being his election to the United States Senate and his 61st birthday. The following letter accompanied the beautiful flowers:

My Dear Senator Reed: These flowers I am sending you for your birthday and in honor of your return to the United States Senate for your third term, were grown in my own garden and bloomed in their unrestrained splendor and perfection upon election day.

Since August 1, I have nourished them very carefully for you, believing and hoping they would survive an election-day frost which might try to wither you and blight my blooms of promise. In the garden of my heart, flowers of thought come to me as I gather my posies in my Kansas City garden almost the middle of November, their unusual life so like your own.

Like yourself, they are the survival of the fittest after a great and wonderful election day, its setting sun of gold, its balmy air of spring, making of November 7 the end of a perfect day.

My Reed flowers grew in the open, bloomed in the sunshine and nodded in the gentle breeze as though in salute and celebration of your great victory at the polls. They have come through a scorching summer campaign unharmed, and now in their prime, they owe their success to their undaunted courage, fearless of any hobgoblins hiding under the bushes or maybe pillowslips. They were unafraid of the outlaws of the garden, and were good mixers on equal terms with orchids and hollyhocks and certainly were not clannish. The only snap dragons they know are grandmother's kind.

My Reed flowers grew in the open, a few weeds tried to choke them but they couldn't; then came along some snakes in the grass but none in bottles, some thistles bobbed up to destroy but as they blew with every wind, they only destroyed themselves. Thorns pricked, poison vines trailed about, but after all they proved to be just grape vines which the wind made sing bed-time stories to these sturdy plants.

Nothing seemed to wither my flowers for they had a backbone of Reed which was unbreakable. It wouldn't even bend but remained upright with faces toward the sun awaiting the harvest moon of Aug. 1.

Then the great flower hearts bloomed into their own to reach maturity November 7. Each petal tells a story of another heart tender and true for whom they were named. A great man who won victory of achievement in the service of his country as a United States Senator two terms, returns now for his third term and who will be the next president of the United States!

May the fragrance of these flowers shed their incense of blessing all about you in a halo of glory, and here to him whose great mind and heart attunes to the finest chords of nature, who loves her verdure, her rocks and mountains and flowery dells.

With heartiest congratulations, dear Senator Reed, I present this shower bouquet.

Sincerely and forever,
Your friend,
MRS. JAS. T. BRADSHAW.
—Moberly Democrat.

MR. NEWBERRY GETS OUT

Charles E. Townsend's Senate seat was lost November 7 in part because of efforts to keep Colleague Truman Newberry in his Senate seat. Hardly any normal man would find a seat comfortable which had been retained by such sacrifice on the part of another. Accordingly Mr. Newberry has resigned from the upper house, frankly stating, however, that this was not the only reason why he had found the seat uncomfortable. And, indeed, has there been within recent memory any man who had less incentive for holding to an important office than Mr. Newberry had for holding to this office, in which his troubled incumbency had continued for a little more than three years and eight months?

He had been under fire even before he had received the certificate of election. Unfavorable publicity began with incredible columns of newspaper space almost as soon as he had been sworn in. His opponent at the polls, Henry Ford, contested his election with production of most voluminous evidence. By a majority of only five votes the case was decided in Mr. Newberry's favor after a bitter struggle that was the equivalent of a defeat. He and dozens of his Michigan supporters were tried in one of the federal courts of that state for expenditures exceeding those authorized in statutes limiting campaign costs. He was sentenced to be transferred from the Senate to the Leavenworth prison; and with him fifteen of his campaign managers and assistants were also sentenced. On the Supreme Court's determination of the statute's insufficiency he was freed, only to learn that his case had, by an unusual change of venue not known to the law, been removed from the courts to the tribunal of the people. The exhaustive examination of all its merits there must be conceded to have re-

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sulted in an adverse verdict of strong condemnation on all points except the still doubtful one of intent, and on this verdict a reopening of the case before the Senate was about to be made.

The indications from which the man who had been violently expelled from the dance hall several times suddenly deduced the hint that he was not wanted there did not have the force of greater unanimity than those suggesting to Mr. Newberry that he was not wanted in the Senate. His retirement will serve the comfort of many aside from himself. His presence in the Senate had become a source of painful embarrassment to his friends at home and at Washington, to his colleagues as a whole, to Congress and to the country. The case has been given many phases by ignorance and misrepresentation, but this is the only phase which is remembered: In his absence from the state on war service wealthy members of his family and other supporters spent at least \$175,000—more of it in newspaper advertising and other forms of publicity—in the campaign in which he won the senatorial nomination against the vast Ford resources in publicity and in other things. For the average citizen this fact was enough. That any man in whose behalf \$175,000 was spent in obtaining a senatorial seat ought not to have the seat, expressed the popular judgment.

ment. Any possibility of good which the merciless exposure in this case may have are already exhausted. The country will feel relieved that more wrangling in the Senate, more perfidious but tedious speeches, more melodramatic roll calls are not to be forced on its attention. It is time the Senate quit looking back on a primary held in the summer of 1918 and began to take note of the present and future. The days that might have been wasted on Newberryism can be utilized to better advantage. Mr. Newberry years for retirement. Most any man would yearn for it who had been in his fix since this time four years ago.—Globe-Democrat.

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